

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 36, 58, 76, and 78 are amended, and claims 82-89 are new. Claims 36-58 and 60-89 are now pending in the application. (Claims 1-35 and claim 59 were previously canceled.) Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Initially, it should be noted that the claims have not been amended for patentability reasons. Rather, limitations (e.g., "a base") that are believed to unnecessarily narrow the claims have been removed from the independent claims and added to dependent claims, broadening the scope of the independent claims. In addition, language describing the application of pressure in claim 36 has been clarified and broadened. For example, "application of a pressure to" one side of a substrate has the same meaning as "application of a pressure differential between" two opposing sides of the substrate. In both instances, the net result is a pressure on one side of the substrate.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the return of several lists of references from previously filed Information Disclosure Statements. One list of references, however, still has not been returned: a list of 6 references cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed electronically on March 29, 2004. Applicants ask that the March 29, 2004 list of references also be initialed and returned.

Claims 36-57, 75, 79, and 80 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as lacking an enabling disclosure. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Figure 15 illustrates and paragraph [0078] describes an exemplary embodiment that fully supports independent 36. Figure 15 shows a pressure 1916 applied to a substrate 1910, which effects electrical connections from terminals 1914 through contact elements 1902 and 1904 of interposer 1900 to terminals 1912 of wafer 1906. Figure 15 and paragraph [0078] provide sufficient information for a person of ordinary skill in the fields to which this invention pertains to make and use the invention of claim 36 without undue experimentation. Therefore, the disclosure fully enables independent claim 36 as well as dependent claims 37-57, 75, 79, and 80.

Claims 58, 76-78, 80, and 81 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by US Patent No. 6,215,320 to Parrish ("Parrish"), and claims 60-74 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of Parris in combination with one or more of the following: US Patent No. 5,974,662; US Patent No. 6,184,053; US Patent No. 6,064,213, and Browoski et al.,

"Electronic Packaging And Interconnection Handbook," McGraw-Hill (1997), chapter 8.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 58 includes "means for securing said interposer to said contactor such that at least one of said contactor or said interposer is moveable between a first position and a second position while said interposer is secured to said contactor." Claim 58 further states that "in said first position, said first plurality of contact elements [of said interposer] do not contact said first terminals on said contactor," but "in said second position, said first plurality of contact elements [of said interposer] contact said first terminals on said contactor." The probe card assembly 24 of Parrish lacks any such means. Indeed, no where does Parrish teach or suggest that contact elements on the interposer 36 move in and out of contact with the probe card 30. Parrish thus fails to disclose "means for securing" that allows "at least one of said contactor or said interposer [to move] between" the first and second positions described in independent claim 58 of the present application. None of the addition references cited in the Office Action makes up for this deficiency in Parrish. Therefore, independent claim 58, as well as dependent claims 60-74, 76-78, 80, 81, and 83 patentably distinguish over Parrish and the other cited references, whether taken singly or in combination.

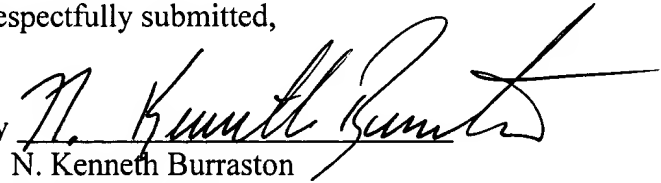
New independent claim 84 is directed to a test apparatus that includes a first substrate and "a first plurality of elongate, resilient contact elements extending from a first surface of said interposer substrate and disposed to contact said first substrate." Application of a pressure to the first substrate causes a second plurality of contact elements on a second surface of the interposer to make contact with contact points on an electronic device to be tested. None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests such a test apparatus. Therefore, new independent claim 84 as well as new dependent claims 85-89 (all of which depend from claim 84) patentably distinguish over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Therefore, the rejections of the claims should be withdrawn and the application passed to allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5934.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 3, 2004

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